

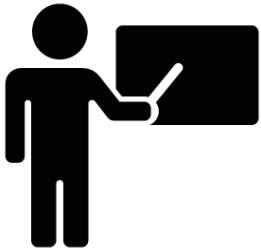
CeaseFirePA

Taking a stand against gun violence in Pennsylvania



GUNS DO NOT BELONG WHERE OUR CHILDREN LEARN

But some PA legislators have the misguided notion that arming our teachers is a good idea. Senate Bill 383 and House Bill 870 will make our schools and our kids less safe.



Teachers Oppose these Bills

With good reason, teachers are against the idea of allowing teachers or school personnel to bring firearms into their schools. The Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), and both the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association have issued strong statements opposing such laws.

Special State Task Forces Have Recommended Against Arming Teachers and Other Non-security School Personnel

At least two major PA studies on the issue have rejected the idea of arming teachers or non-security personnel. A 2013 Joint State Government Commission on Violence report “strongly opposed” arming non-law enforcement personnel in schools because “parameters for use of the weapons would only be as good as the person entrusted to carry one.” It also cited concerns about students accessing the firearms, and about teachers being mistaken for suspects during any active shooter situations. Another study from 2014, conducted by the Pennsylvania House Select Committee on School Safety, did not recommend arming general school personnel.

Why Are These Bills so Dangerous?

These bills would allow local PA school boards to authorize teachers and school personnel with PA concealed carry licenses and (unspecified) “training” to carry firearms in our schools during the school day.



Unfortunately, there is no requirement in PA that a concealed carry licensee complete any training -- either safety or proficiency -- to obtain or renew a license. And the types of training outlined in the bill don't really seem to apply to non-law enforcement civilians. The one phrase in the bill that seemingly defines such training refers to training approved by the state police, but neither the state police nor the bill sponsor could identify such a training program or confirm that one exists.

Teachers, students, parents, and many school board officials agree: this is a bad idea and won't make us safer.

We must urgently stand up for the safety of our children and for the people who devote their lives to educating our children and keeping them safe during the day. Call your state Senator and your state Representative today and tell them that you want safe schools—vote NO on SB 383 and HB 870.

To learn more visit CeaseFirePA.org